

Want To Be a Teacher?

Increased public interest in education is attracting students and career-changers to teaching. A skillful teacher can inspire, motivate, stimulate, and develop the minds of students. He or she must be well educated; be able to work with a diversity of students, parents, and other teachers; and be highly competent in presenting subject matter.

WHAT DO TEACHERS DO?

Along with teaching classes, teachers at all levels must also prepare lesson plans, grade tests, hold conferences with parents, coordinate with other service-providing professionals, and attend school meetings. Some elementary teachers have specialty areas, such as music, art, or physical education, and teach only that subject to different classes. Generally, a secondary teacher is prepared to teach at least two specific subjects. All teachers must be able to evaluate student performance.

Through school reform efforts, teachers are becoming more involved in site-based management responsibilities. Experienced teachers may also mentor new teachers and/or supervise preservice teachers.

WHAT ARE WORKING CONDITIONS LIKE?

Most states require schools to be in session for a minimum number

of days, usually in a 10-month schedule with a 2-month vacation.

Salary levels generally have risen and most states have laws that grant teachers tenure (job protection) after 3 years of successful teaching. (See *Career Planning Table for wage and other info.*) Many teachers belong to either the National Education Association or the American Federation of Teachers, two professional teacher unions.

Class sizes and characteristics of students vary greatly. Preparation for working with students from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, economic, and language backgrounds, and physical abilities is important.

WHAT ACADEMIC PREPARATION IS NEEDED?(See pg38 & Career Planning Table for additional info.)

All states require teachers in public schools to have at least a bachelor's degree. High school

guidance counselors can help in selection of classes required for college admission; graduates can then enroll in a 4-year college or in a 2-year college followed by transfer to a 4-year institution. The 4-year program will include student/practice teaching.

Some states may require a 4-year liberal arts program followed by 1 or 2 years of education courses, including an internship or student/practice teaching.

Teacher education programs are usually coordinated with state requirements for certification.

For additional teacher requirement information, contact the Bureau of Credentialing, New Hampshire Dept. of Education, 101 Pleasant St, Concord, NH 03301

*(603) 271-2407 or 2408
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Postsecondary Schools that offer Teacher Certification Programs(s)

4-Year: Colby-Sawyer College, Daniel Webster College, Dartmouth College, Franklin Pierce College, Keene State College, New England College, Notre Dame College, Plymouth State College, Rivier College, Southern NH University, St. Anselm College, University of NH

2-Year: NHTI-Concord

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